Percentage of chemicals in soft drinks

404. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of phosphoric acid, chemical sweetner called Aspartame and anti-freeze compound permitted in soft drinks;

(b) whether tests have been conducted with regard to soft drinks, having excess percentage of these chemicals in view of international studies having shown many serious side-effects caused by these chemicals including damage to nervous and brain system, when used in excess;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard and the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would direct all soft drinks companies to disclose the various additives on their container?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) The PFA Rules 1955 permit addition of Phosphoric acid -600ppm (max), and aspartame 700ppm (max), in carbonated water. Anti-freeze compounds are not permitted to be added in carbonated water. The limits are fixed on the basis of consumption pattern, acceptable daily intake (ADI), and toxicological evaluation.

(e) Rule 32 of PFA Rules 1955 provides that food additives falling in the respective classes and appearing in the lists of food additives permitted for use in foods generally, class titles shall be used together with the specific names or recognized international numerical identifications. Non-compliances of Labeling provision attract penal provision under PFA Act 1954.

Utilization of fruits and vegetables

405. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the utilization of fruits and vegetables for processing in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had received any proposals from Rajasthan Government for establishment of Food Processing Parks in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assistance is given to the State or entrepreneurs by Government, in the form of cold storage facilities, warehousing facilities, food testing laboratories, etc.;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of funds, if any, granted by Government to set up food processing industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has got conducted a major study for assessing the status of food processing industries and for preparing a Vision, Strategy & Action Plan Document for the whole country. The Vision envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. Specific study in respect of Rajasthan has not been conducted.

(c) and (d) Four proposals had been received by the Ministry seeking financial asistance for setting up of Food Parks in Rajasthan to be implemnted by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO). Three proposals for setting up of Food Parks at Kota, Jodhpur and Sri Ganganagar respectively, have already been approved by the Ministry. In case of the proposal at Alwar, the implementing agency has been asked to furnish necessary details/documentation required for consideration of the proposal.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its different plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid to various implementing agencies, for the overall development of Food Processing Industry. Assistance upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery

and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs is admissible for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere modified atmosphere facility to all implementing agencies. Besides, Cold storages which are an integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. For setting up/ upgradation of Quality testing laboratories, assistance admissible is limited to the entire cost of capital equipment in case of Central/State Government organizations, IITs and universities. In case of all other Implementing Agencies, the assistance is limited to 33% of the cost of capital equipment in General Areas and upto 50% in difficult areas under the scheme.

(g) Assistance amounting to Rs. 9.44 Crore has been released in respect of proposals from Rajasthan under different schemes of the Ministry, during the Tenth Plan period, so far.

Food processing technology for preserving seasonal products

406. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to use the food processing technology for preserving and marketing seasonal products available in South India such as tomato, potato, which can be brought to north Indian markets to meet the demand and scarcity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the Indian producers from the competition of "Washington Apple" in Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Adequate technologies are available in India for preservation and marketing of seasonal products like tomato potato for bringing them for South India to the North Indian markets. Hence, no such study has been conducted by this Ministry.

(b) The Government provides financial assistance to the food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid for technology upgradation/modernization/ establishment upto 25% and 33.33% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil work subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas like North East, J&K, Uttaranchal,